

Students stage small protest over new dean

By SHARON SPIVAK

A small group of UCSD students are protesting the appointment of a dean at their university because a private research institute he heads once did economic research for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Afraid that Dr. Richard Attiyeh would strengthen university ties with the CIA, students held a press conference and picketed outside his new office July 1, marring the economic professor's first day as dean of the Office of Graduate Studies and Research.

The protesters are opposed to Attiyeh's appointment because he is the president of the local Institute for Policy Analysis, which had a contract with the CIA around 1973 to do an economic analysis of the relationship between international trade and tariff policies.

The students are afraid that in his new position, Attiyeh would increase UCSD's ties with the CIA at the expense of academic freedom.

Jon Bekken of UCSD's Student Cooperation Union read a statement that said that, "As OGSR dean, Attiyeh helps determine the allocation of resources not only to departments and other university units, but also plays a major role in determining support to individual faculty and graduate students.

"...He determines the extent to which the university will comply with 'intelligence' agency requests for information on foreign scholars, both graduate students and faculty," he said.

"...Attiyeh is in a prime position to expand the university's collaboration with the Central Intelligence Agency, and similar agencies, as well as expanding and more firmly entrenching the university's reliance on war research."

George Katsiaficas, an anti-CIA activist and UCSD graduate student, likened Attiyeh's appointment to a small step toward "George Orwell's 1984."

Barry Hyman, former chair of the UCSD Graduate Student Council, said that "It's privacy. The idea that someone worked for the CIA...How do you guarantee that he won't take files of all the students and take them over to the CIA?"

Attiyeh said that he did not have "hands-on" experience with the research the IPA did for the CIA, but was president of the organization when the work was done between 1973 and 1975.

Attiyeh said that the IPA is "a private, non-profit corporation under the California charter for research and education purposes," which was formed by four then-UCSD economics faculty members around 1972.

The corporation has been inactive since 1976, he said, but has not been dissolved for reasons of "pure inertia."

Attiyeh said the questioned research was "straightforward economic analysis" as part of a \$150,000 to \$250,000 contract with the CIA "to analyze the effects of tariff reductions on the flow of trade between the U.S. and other countries."

"At the time of the CIA contract," he said, "the U.S. government was about to become involved in a serious negotiation concerning the reduction of tariffs involving most major countries," he said.

Attiyeh said that various agencies routinely prepare research as background material to advise representatives of agencies or the departments of Treasury and State.

He said that this was such a non-secret, non-classified study to serve as preparation for such negotiations.

"The CIA is concerned with other than just the cloak and dagger stuff," he said. "It's also responsible for general intelligence."

However, students also were concerned because the resume that Attiyeh submitted to the search committee (which selected him as dean pending approval of the Regents) neglected to mention his IPA and CIA ties. Students said it was possible that this was a cover-up on Attiyeh's part.

Attiyeh's resumes on file with UCSD's Public Information Office, dated 1976 and 1981, prominently list him as president of the IPA.

"It didn't occur to me to include my affiliation with IPA (on the resume for the committee) because it hadn't been active for some time and it wasn't a university activity," he said.

"The protest that occurred here...was roughly 10 people," UCSD Chancellor Richard Atkinson said Tuesday. "You can always raise 10 people for any cause, particularly at UCSD. I don't judge that there's any merit at all to these protests."

"That Dr. Attiyeh is in any way tied to the CIA, I consider to be incredibly slanderous. And for people to make that remark in such a casual way takes me back to the worst period of McCarthyism, where

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you were willing to slander anyone publicly with no constraint on that slander."

Among Attiyeh's new duties are to oversee graduate student academic affairs, seek resolutions to campus needs for research space, interact with industry to promote UCSD's research and graduate education programs, review and approve contract and grant proposals on the general campus, and initiate policies, procedures and activities which enhance research at UCSD.

He further explained his new role: "In the university, all research is carried out by faculty and research appointees," he said, "who initiate for the most part the ideas for research and the proposals for research."

"The dean doesn't initiate or restrict the faculty by telling them what they can do research on or what direction to take," he said. He added that the budget he would work with is very small.